

BY ALDS. MURPHY, HAMILTON, COGGS, SPIKER, STAMPER, PEREZ, BORKOWSKI, LEWIS, RAINEY, JOHNSON, DODD

*Resolution congratulating Melissa Cook on her retirement from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.*

**WHEREAS,**

## **MELISSA COOK**

*retired with pride and satisfaction as an employee at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources on October 11, 2019 after 25 years of dedicated service; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Melissa Cook worked as a volunteer on a feasibility study that created a State-owned park in the Menomonee River Valley and Cook's vision and dedication led to her 1994 hiring by the Department of Natural Resources and creation of the Hank Aaron State Trail, where she has where she has served as the Hank Aaron State Trail Manager for the past 25 years; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Today, the Hank Aaron State Trail spans 14 miles, stretching from Lake Michigan to the Milwaukee County line and near the most densely populated and racially diverse neighborhoods in the state, and the trail has become a path that connects Milwaukee citizens to history, nature, and each other; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Melissa has led art installations that ensure the Trail educates visitors about the history, ecology, and communities through which it passes, including recognizing the native peoples who first inhabited the Milwaukee area, the rail workers who built the Milwaukee Road, and the housing marches across the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct which became the James E. Groppi Unity Bridge; and*

**WHEREAS,** *Melissa's labors of love led to residents who have discovered nature in the heart of Milwaukee, have taught their children to ride bikes on the trail, have accessed jobs on the trail, and have found a place in Milwaukee that is what we aspire to be and that brings people together; now, therefore, be it*

**RESOLVED,** *That the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee herewith congratulates Melissa Cook on her retirement from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, extends its appreciation on behalf of the community, and wishes for her a happy and healthy retirement; and, be it*

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** *That a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to Melissa Cook.*

**Introduced by Common Council members Michael J. Murphy, Ashanti Hamilton, Robert G. Donovan, Milele A. Coggs, Russell W. Stamper, II, Mark A. Borkowski, Scott Spiker, José G. Pérez, Chantia Lewis, Khalif J. Rainey and Nikiya Dodd and approved by all members of the Milwaukee Common Council on October 15, 2019.**